Philosophers’ Symposium

You will take on the role of one of the philosophers we have studied and prepare to participate in a gathering of some of history’s best known philosophers; many of whom have never met in life. Now you have a rare opportunity to discuss your ideas at this symposium.

**Plato**

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| **Research:**   * Select a philosophical school, e.g., existentialism, Platonism, scholasticism, postmodernism, feminism, etc. * Select one of the thinkers (in consultation with the teacher)of that school and assume their identity during the symposium   **Simone de Bouvoir**  **Write:**  You will submit a TWO page overviewexplaining your philosophical approach; it will include the following:     * Identify the major thinkers associated with this philosophical approach * Summarize what the school believes about three of the main areas of philosophy, e.g., what does an existentialist believe about metaphysics, ethics, and social and political philosophy? * Indicate what implications there are based on this perspective, e.g., *What does an existentialist perspective help us understand about what it means to be human?*   **Present:**  During the conference you will be expected to present your overview of the philosophical approach you have chosen to the rest of the symposium participants. Your presentation will not exceed 5mins!  **Kierkegaard**  **Discuss:**  After your brief presentation, as a conference you will engage in a moderated discussion, maintaining your philosophical perspective, on a number of important questions. The issues up for discussion will be:  *Are the mind and body separate? Do humans have free will? On the basis of what principle(s) should we make ethical decisions? Is there an objective reality beyond our individual perspectives? What arguments are there for and against the existence of god?* |

This culminating assignment will build upon the research we have done into Metaphysics, Ethics and Social & Political Philosophy.

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| **Process:**   * You will take a seat at the table * You will need your overview, research notes and something to write with at the table * You will each take turns presenting your ideas (while someone is presenting you will need to take notes – this will be of use during the moderated discussion) * Following the philosophers’ perspectives the moderated discussion will begin |





**Barbara Ehrenreich**



**Lao Tzu**

Your **Written Component** (5 % of your final Mark) will be evaluated using the following grading scheme.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Criteria** | **Marking** |
| Knowledge | * All relevant requirements on the handout are met * Information surrounding the ideology is accurate * There are no glaring absences in your explanation * Demonstrates a knowledge of the central points of the philosophy * Demonstrates an understanding of the impact of the philosopher’s own socio-historical context on their ideas | /10 |
| Thinking/Inquiry | * The analysis is logical and well-explained. * It is clear that you understand the different elements of your philosophy * At least 5 sources are cited using Chicago Style format | /10 |
| Communication  **Cornel West** | * Use introductory and concluding paragraphs & sentences. * Attention to spelling and grammar. * Presentation is clean and neat | /10 |
| Application | * The format for conference paper submission (described above) is followed * Responses to 3 of the discussion questions reflects your ability to apply your chosen perspective in different scenarios | /10 |

Your **Oral Component** (10% of your final mark) will be evaluated on the basis of the following grading scheme.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Criteria** | **Marking** |
| Knowledge | * All relevant requirements on the handout are met * Information surrounding the philosophical approach is accurate * There are no glaring absences in your explanation * Demonstrates a knowledge of the central points of the philosophy * Demonstrates an understanding of the impact of the philosopher’s own socio-historical context on their ideas * Responds effectively to all inquiries made by other philosophers | /10 |
| Thinking/  Inquiry | * The analysis is logical and well-explained. * It is clear that you understand the different elements of your philosophy * All contributions to the conference are made **IN ROLE and are consistent with your chosen perspective** * Demonstrates an ability to reply to inquiries made by other philosophers at the symposium (shows a true understanding of the concepts) | /10 |
| Communication | * Use introductory and concluding statements * Speaks clearly makes eye contact with fellow philosophers * Minimal reference to notes * Presents information in character (remember these individuals were very passionate about their ideas) * Comments on remarks made by other philosophers at least once for a minimum of 3 discussion questions * Demonstrate some research into the character you are playing | /10 |
| Application | * The format for conference participation(described above) is followed * The moderator’s directions are followed carefully * Replies to inquires about your ideas - able to answer questions effectively * Responses to 3 of the discussion questions reflects your ability to apply your chosen perspective in different scenarios * All discussion topics are addressed in role | /10 |



**Sartre**

**Avicenna**

**Discussion Tally Chart**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Discussion Question** | **# of Comments During Discussion** | **Discussion Question** | **# of Comments During Discussion** |
| **1** | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | **4** | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| **2** | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | **5** | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 |
| **3** | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 |  |  |